Advent Christian Church Formed in 1872

In 1872, Rev. J. H. Paton, who had separated from the Baptist Church, formed an independent society of fifteen members under the style of the Advent Christian Church, with the brief creed, "The Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice and Christian character, the only test of Fellowship." The society, sometimes called the Larger Hope Church, erected a small frame chapel on N. Bristol St. in the fall of 1872, and it was used by them as a house of worship for some 25 years with Rev. Paton the only pastor. When the membership began to decline, the services were discontinued. At a subsequent period, it became an extra school building. Later it was the Almont Rug Factory and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Sharp. The building at 318 Bristol St. is now the home of Paul M. Wilcox, Residential Builders and owned by Mrs. Sandra Stanlake Donnelly.

The Old Advent Church on N. Bristol. Later it was a rug factory.

remained so until 1844, when it was separated under the name of the Newburg appointment and was the nucleus of the present M. E. Church of Almont. Services were held in a small frame building on the northwest corner of West. St. Clair St, and Church St. east of where Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bailey live at 306 W. St. Clair St. (Known through the years as the Charles Ferguson home.) Later the original church was used as a school and was finally moved a short distance to the north and remodeled into a residence. It still stands at 115 Church St. where Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith now live.

The membership grew, until it served the largest congregation in the village, but time took its toll until several years later, the membership began to decline. Many revival meetings were held in an attempt to regain its lost position. It closed in 1828.

In about 1913, the steeple, which rose above the tower of the church, was damaged in a storm and was removed but never replaced. The rest of the building was in good condition. In 1938 the building was sold to W. Ross Lawrence, an Almont Business man, who sold the pews to a church at Pontiac, Mich. and the bell to Woodmere M. E. Church, Detroit, where it rings every Sunday. Several homes standing today nearby on School St. were made from the bricks of the old Church.

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Shaw Settlement

Rev. Luther Shaw was sent as a missionary about 1830, to the benighted people of Michigan from the Eastern Churches. He came from Ohio with his family, and others from there and some from Vermont. Among them were Rev. Shaw's seventy year old